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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Ian Trevor Dampney et al.

SERIAL NO:

09/890,581

GAU:

EXAMINER:

3731

FILED: August 2, 2001

Actuating and Locking Mechanism for a Surgical Tool

Not yet assigned

FOR:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

 \boxtimes The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references. A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

Attached is a copy of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. These documents are listed on form PTO-1449, also attached.

A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited for the first time in any communication from a foreign patent office in any counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited for the first time in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the subject patent application. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on

 \boxtimes the merits.

PETITION

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Applicant(s) hereby request consideration of the attached information. A check is attached in the amount of the Petition fee required under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1).

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 23-2185. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully Submitted,

BLANK ROME COMISKY & MCCAULEY LLP

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27557 PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: April 30, 2002

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